

# KILL-A-WATT ENERGY CONSERVATION

*Save money by preventing wasted electricity use from home electronics and appliances*

Standby power is the electricity that powers appliances and devices when they are turned off. Many electronics, such as microwaves, computers, DVD players, TVs, cable boxes and battery rechargers continuously use small amounts of electricity. This continuous, low-level energy use is also called a 'phantom' or 'vampire' load.

Although a single device may only use a few watts for standby power, multiply the watts by a 24-hour day, times the 6 to 10 devices in a typical home and the energy use starts to add up. Energy experts estimate that approximately 5 percent of residential electrical power consumption in the United States is used for standby power.

THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY ESTIMATES  
THAT AS MUCH AS  
**43 BILLION KWH**  
**EACH YEAR IS**  
**WASTED BY**  
PHANTOM LOADS  
THROUGHOUT THE  
UNITED STATES.

## HOW CAN I IDENTIFY PRODUCTS THAT USE STANDBY POWER?



A home electricity usage monitor, such as a Kill-A-Watt meter, is an easy way to measure standby power use and discover which appliances are the most expensive to operate. Simply plug the meter into the wall and then plug your appliance into the meter. Selecting the kilowatt-hours (kWh) display coincides with your electric bill and helps you calculate the electrical costs for a day, week, month or entire year. Try it on electronics and appliances throughout the home. Then you will know if it is time for a new refrigerator or how much you'd save by using a power strip to turn off electronics.

## HOW CAN I FIND AN ENERGY MONITOR?

**GETTING A HOME ENERGY MONITOR IS AS SIMPLE AS CHECKING OUT A LIBRARY BOOK.**

Kill-A-Watt electricity monitoring kits are available to borrow for free at the Damascus, Germantown, Rockville Memorial, and Long Branch libraries. Simply ask the front desk for a Kill-A-Watt meter or check availability by searching for "Kill A Watt." The kit comes with an instruction page and is available for three weeks. The kits must be brought back to the Return Desk at the library.

### ENERGY TIPS

- Unplug devices and appliances when not in use.
- Hook multiple electronic devices up to a "smart" power strip to automatically cut power when not in use.
- When you are ready to replace an item, look for products that are ENERGY STAR certified.